

Re Point V:

1. Independent Claim 1:

Claim 1 relates to a device for testing a safety valve installed on a pressure tank, said valve having a cone and a valve seat, whereby a spring presses the cone against the valve seat,

- having a tie rod that is connected to the cone, that has a latching element and that prescribes a longitudinal direction;
- having a counter flange arranged in the longitudinal direction at a prescribed distance from the valve housing of the safety valve;
- having a force sensing device that can be moved and fixed relative to the counter flange; and
- having connections means for detachably connecting the force sensing device to the tie rod.

Such a device is a familiar state of the art; in this context, see, for example, EP-A 28,661. These prior-art devices have the drawback that they cannot be used in such a way that the safety function of the valve is maintained even while the safety valve is being tested.

In order to overcome this drawback, a refinement of the known state of the art is provided according to the invention in which:

- a latching hook is provided as the connection means that is connected to the force sensing device and that is detachably engaged with the latching element of the tie rod;
- whereby the tie rod can be moved independently of the latching hook along the entire lift in the opening direction of the safety valve.

The current state of the art does not provide any obvious suggestion whatsoever for this specially claimed embodiment, which makes it possible to maintain the safety function of the valve even while the safety valve is being tested, as a result of which the subject matter of Claim 1 complies with the requirements of Article 33(2)(3) PCT.

2. Subordinate Claims 2 through 12:

Subordinate Claims 2 through 12 relate to advantageous embodiments of the device according to Claim 1 and thus likewise fulfill the requisite criteria of novelty and inventive activity.